



The Laboratory's new community focus

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Developing a workforce pipeline, enhancing small business opportunities, and supporting educational, economic development and philanthropic initiatives will be the focus of Los Alamos National Laboratory's community engagement plans in Northern New Mexico under its new managing contractor, Triad National Security, LLC.

"Our aim is to sustain and enhance the Laboratory's partnership with the community for the benefit of the region and the Laboratory," said Thom Mason, the Laboratory director.

"Over the last four months, I have met with the leadership of more than 30 local organizations representing businesses, nonprofits, governments and Indian pueblos. Our plans reflect the challenges they identified, and the integral role the Laboratory plays as a neighbor, employer and major economic driver in the region."

Developing an improved workforce pipeline for people in Northern New Mexico to fill the projected vacancies at the Laboratory will be one major initiative in collaboration with education partners across the region. Enhancing opportunities for small businesses to provide goods and services to the Laboratory will also be a priority.

Speaking at the Regional Economic Development Initiative summit on December 4, Mason announced an increase in the local preference available to businesses based in the seven counties surrounding the Lab from 5 percent to 10 percent (with an additional preference for qualifying pueblo businesses). He also announced a new Office of Partnerships and Pipeline at the Lab, and a collaboration with Northern New Mexico College to create a training program for radiological control technicians, who are in high demand at the Laboratory.

Triad's investment in the community

In addition to the Laboratory's focus on the community, managing contractor Triad will contribute up to \$2.5 million to nonprofits in the region in the coming year under its Community Commitment Plan.

These contributions will support K-12 STEM education through a partnership with the [LANL Foundation](#), and strengthen regional economic diversity and workforce development through a partnership with the [Regional Development Corporation](#).

"A vibrant regional economy outside the Laboratory is important to everyone in the area, and the investment from Triad will go towards our work supporting the technology, media, renewable energy, outdoor recreation and value-added agriculture sectors," says Val Alonzo, executive director of the Regional Development Corporation.

Triad's investments will also reinforce community efforts to address substance abuse through the [United Way of Northern New Mexico](#), and magnify the philanthropic efforts of Laboratory employees by providing a match for employee contributions to qualified charitable organizations in the seven-county region surrounding the Laboratory.

"I look forward to working with the Laboratory and its new managing contractor Triad, as we work to increase the opportunities and improve the quality of life for people across the region," says Mary Beth Maassen, executive director at the United Way of Northern New Mexico.

"We're excited the Laboratory's new managing contractor is taking a two-pronged approach to community engagement, using the Laboratory's resources to address issues that directly affect the Laboratory (such as workforce development, and small business support), and using Triad's Community Commitment Plan investments to support the region's broader needs," says Kathy Keith, director of the Laboratory's Community Partnerships Office.

Details of the Laboratory's programs and Triad's investments are still being developed in conjunction with partners across the region. In the meantime, the Community Partnerships Office can answer questions. Please feel free to contact us at 505-665-4400.

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